

Kluane National Park

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The park environment

Kluane is the story of icefields and wilderness. Dominated by some of the world's largest icefields outside polar regions, and accented by rugged mountains, wide valleys, mountain lakes, alpine meadows and tundra, the area is a superb example of the role glaciers play in determining the shape of the land. For survival, the living things have had to adapt to extremes of climate and variable topographic conditions. To preserve these natural elements for all generations, no one is permitted to damage or remove rocks, fossils and plants or to molest wildlife in any way.

The land

The dominant features of Kluane are two major mountain chains running parallel in a southeasterly direction. The Kluane Ranges, sometimes called the "front ranges," border the Alaska and Haines Highways presenting a chain of 2,500 m (8,000-foot) summits interrupted only by a few large valleys cut by major rivers, three of them glacier-fed. To the west lies the Duke Depression, a narrow trough separating the Kluane Ranges from the Icefield Ranges. This trough consists of several large plateaus and a series of valleys where tongues of glaciers still protrude.

The Icefield Ranges, west of the Depression, contain Mt. Logan, at 5,950 m (19,520 feet) Canada's highest peak. Other major peaks include Mt. St. Elias 5,488 m (18,008 ft), Mt. Lucania 5,221 m (17,447 ft), King Peak 5,173 m (16,971 ft), Mt. Steele 5,075 m (16,644 ft), Mt. Wood 4,842 m (15,885 ft), Mt. Vancouver 4,828 m (15,840 ft), and Mt. Hubbard 4,577 m (15,015 ft). Forming a base for this array is an ice-covered plateau 2,500 to 3,000 m (8,100 to 9,800 feet) in elevation. Dating back to the last Ice Age, these massive fields of snow and ice are maintained by moist Pacific air flowing over the mountains.

An extensive network of valley glaciers, such as the Steele, Seward, Hubbard, Logan, Donjek and Kaskawulsh, radiate from the icefields and account for year-round snow



Mt. Logan.

and ice cover on more than half the park. The Steele is an unusual surging glacier that sporadically moves at a very rapid rate. During the late 1960's, it ground eleven kilometres (seven miles) downhill over a four month period and was nicknamed the "Galloping Glacier."

Vegetation

The Kluane environment ranges from forest to alpine tundra and from marshes to sand dunes. To the southeast, the vegetation is more luxuriant as a result of the climatic influence of the Pacific. Alpine tundra, characterized by lichens, dwarf birch and other low shrubs and herbs, occurs at altitudes from 1,200 m (4,000 feet) to 1,850 m (6,000 feet) throughout the park except in the icefields.

Timberline is at approximately 1,050 to 1,200 m (3,500 to 4,000 feet), depending upon local conditions. Below the treeline, is a unique montane forest consisting of white spruce, trembling aspen, and balsam poplar.

Grasslands are found in the valley bottoms and on

some south and southwest facing slopes. Characteristic species include wheat grass, bluegrass, pasture sagewort and sedges.

Above timberline, trees give way to low-growing or stunted species of shrubs. Willow, shrub birch and alder are the most common and provide some protection for the profusion of smaller plants and flowers. Mountain avens and mountain heather are two particularly hardy plants which are able to survive the environmental extremes and extend into the alpine tundra zone where the growing season is short, cold and unpredictable. Snowdrifts last until late summer and frost may occur at any time. In spite of this, brightly coloured alpine and arctic flowers bloom throughout the summer.

The wildlife

Some of North America's finest wildlife populations inhabit Kluane National Park. Members of the largest subspecies of moose in North America are abundant in the major valleys of the park and Dall sheep may be seen on Sheep Mountain and other alpine areas. Mountain goats roam rocky slopes and cliffs in the south and a small herd of caribou occasionally enters the park near the Duke River.

Grizzlies are found throughout the park, being particularly abundant in the major river valleys and black bears occur in the forested areas. Out of respect for the wild nature of these animals and considering the fact man is only a visitor to their environment, a fire or a full term may be imposed on anyone feeding or harassing bears. Travellers in bear country should be well informed of the necessary precautions to avoid confrontations and keep in mind that all wild animals can be dangerous.

Other mammals include the wolf, coyote, red fox, wolverine, Arctic ground squirrel, lynx, beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, marmot and snowshoe hare.

The great diversity of biological communities in Kluane contributes to the variety of birdlife. Over 170

species have been reported in the area, including the upland sandpiper, Arctic tern, peregrine falcon, bald and golden eagles, mountain bluebird and sharp-tailed grouse.

Dall Sheep
Mouflon de Dall



For your information

Season: The weather in the Kluane region is largely responsible for restricting the period of outdoor activity. Generally, weather suitable for camping and recreation falls between June 15 and September 15, although ski-touring and winter camping can be done except during the coldest periods. Temperature extremes range between the high 20's in July to minus 50° C in January.

Hiking: Kluane National Park was established in 1972 and the trail system is still being planned. However, visitors can enjoy wilderness walks and hikes in many areas. Those planning extended trips should be aware that the country can be very deceptive and extremely rugged. Overnight hikers must register with a park warden or at the park office at km 1640, Alaska Highway (near Haines Junction), and obtain a campfire permit if they intend to build an open fire.

Boating: Motor boats may be used on Kathleen Lake, however, the waters can be rough and unpredictable. All motor boats must carry proper safety equipment and conform with Federal navigation regulations. Canoeing is not recommended in the park; however, those planning a canoe trip in one of the streams or rivers are urged to contact a park warden for information.

Climbing and Mountaineering: For their protection and safety, all mountain climbers must register with the Warden Service before and after the climb. Inexperienced climbers should obtain the services of a guide and full information about necessary equipment.

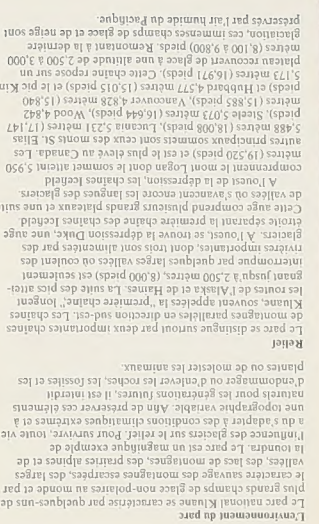
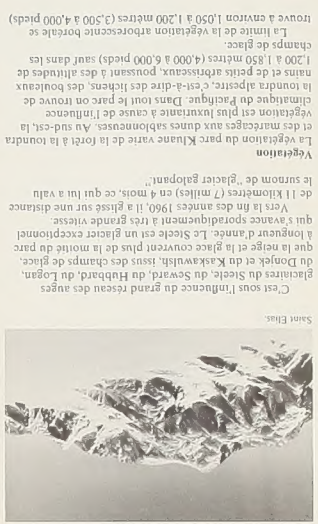
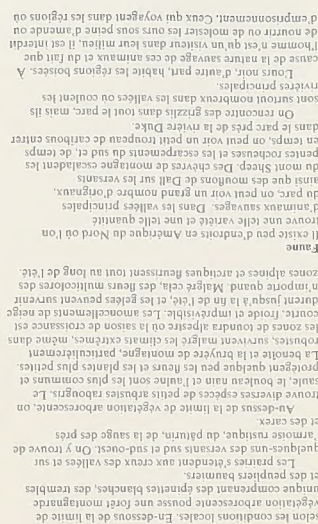
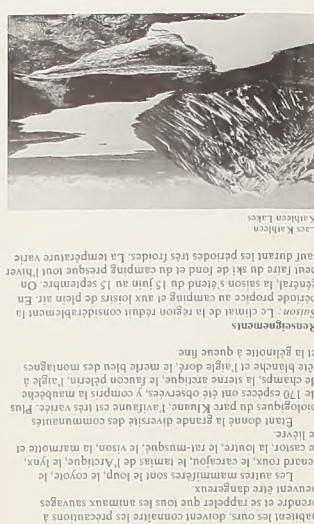
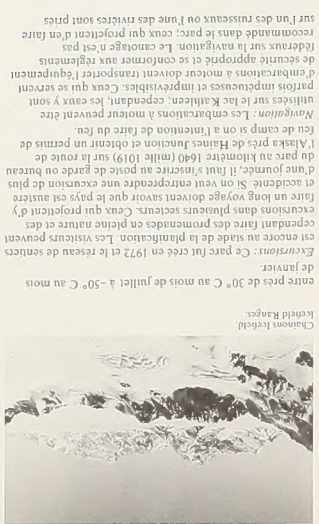
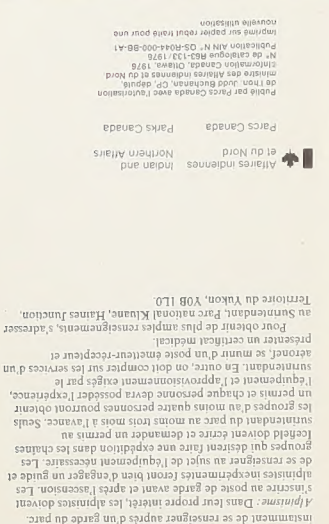
Groups planning an expedition into the Icefield Ranges must apply in writing to the Superintendent for a permit at least three months in advance. Only groups with a minimum of four persons will be issued a permit. All visitors must be experienced, equipped and supplied to the satisfaction of the Superintendent. Air support, radio communication and a physician's certificate are also required.

For further information contact the Superintendent, Kluane National Park, Haines Junction, Yukon Territory, Y0B 1L0.

Indian and Northern Affairs
Affaires indiennes et du Nord

Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Published by Parks Canada under authority of the Hon. Judd Buchanan, PC, MP
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs
Information Canada, Ottawa, 1976
Catalogue No. R63-123/1976
INA Publication No. GS-R644-000-GB-A-1
Printed on recycled post-consumer waste paper



LEGEND

LEGENDE

Highway (All Weather Road) — Grande route (tout-temps)

Secondary Road (Dry Weather Road) — Route secondaire (passable par temps sec)

Accommodation — Logement

Campground — Terrain de camping

Mountain — Montagne

Lake — Lac

River — Rivière

Creek — Ruisseau

Park Boundary — Limite du parc

Airstrip — Terrain d'atterrissage

METRIC CONVERSION TABLE

1 inch	2.5 centimetres
1 sq. in.	6.5 sq. centimetres
1 foot	0.3 metres
1 sq. ft.	0.09 sq. metres
1 yard	0.9 metres
1 sq. yard	0.8 sq. metres
1 mile	1.6 kilometres
1 sq. mile	2.6 sq. kilometres
1 acre	0.4 hectares

Note:

This is but a reference map, designed to give you a general idea of what you will find in this park. It is not a road, hiking, or boating map.

TABLE DE LA CONVERSION METRIQUE

1 pouce	2.5 centimetres
1 pouce carré	6.5 centimetres carrés
1 pied	0.3 mètres
1 pied carré	0.09 mètres carrés
1 verge	0.9 mètres
1 verge carrée	0.8 mètres carrés
1 mile	1.6 kilomètres
1 mille carré	2.6 kilomètres carrés
1 acre	0.4 hectares

A noter:

Ceci n'est qu'une carte de référence dessinée dans le but de vous donner une idée générale de ce que vous trouverez dans ce parc. Il ne s'agit pas d'une carte de route, de promenade ou de canotage.

